

WISCONSIN EPI EXPRESS

September 28, 2004

[Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services](#)

Division of Public Health
Bureau of Communicable Diseases and
Preparedness

"Be not slow to visit the sick." [Ecclesiastes](#)

The WISCONSIN EPI EXPRESS provides a regular update on communicable disease issues of importance in our state and is intended primarily for participants in the public health surveillance system. Please let us know if the topics covered are on target or if there are others that we should be addressing. Thank you. Jim Vergeront: vergejm@dhfs.state.wi.us

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1. COMPENDIUM OF MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND INJURY ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMALS IN PUBLIC SETTINGS, 2004

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) recently released a new and updated edition of its 2003 Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease and Injury Associated with Animals in Public Settings. The Compendium is divided into sections on Enteric Diseases; Injuries/Rabies; Other Infections; and Allergy/Asthma. The Compendium ends with a final section of recommendations, including recommendations on public education, controlling contact between the public and animals in order to prevent disease transmission ; and care and management of animals, with particular emphasis on diseases and behaviors that could pose a threat to humans. Wisconsin Public Health Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Kazmierczak, was a member of the committee which developed the Compendium.

The NASPHV recommends that the compendium be widely distributed to persons responsible for oversight or regulation of animal contact venues, persons who operate such venues, and groups such as schools that may have animals in contact with the public. It may be read and downloaded from the internet on the website of the American Veterinary Medicine Association at: http://www.avma.org/pubhlth/comp_animals_public_settings.pdf (pdf) or http://www.avma.org/pubhlth/comp_animals_public_settings.asp (html)

For further information contact Jim Kazmierczak DVM, MS at 608-266-2154.

2. EIS OFFICER ANDIE NEWMAN BEGINS TRAINING WITH BCDP

BCDP is happy to announce the addition of Alexandra (Andie) Newman, D.V.M., M.P.H., to our Bureau as our new EIS (Epidemic Intelligence Service) Officer. She arrived August 2 and has already been involved in a follow-up monkeypox study, the statewide pertussis outbreak, and assorted foodborne outbreaks.

Andie is a graduate of Cornell University (B.A. and D.V.M.) and received her M.P.H. (concentration in epidemiology) from Emory. She has eleven years of clinical experience in

New York, Maine and Massachusetts. Her professional interests include increasing her skills in applied epidemiology working with both large and small data sets. She was attracted to WI because of the diversity of the problems state and local health departments must confront. While she has a passion for zoonotic diseases, she is also interested in parasitic, foodborne, and vector-borne diseases. She also indicated her interest in environmental/occupational and injury epidemiology although she claims no prior experience in these areas.

Her interests outside work include all types of sports especially field hockey and other team sports such as softball. She is also looking forward to improving her golf game. She also enjoys bicycling, squash, cross country skiing, hiking, and is getting into kayaking.

Andie is a dog lover and is currently training her 1 year old Bouvier des Flandres ("Georgie"). She hopes to show her in obedience and will begin training her in agility and herding in the future.

She is a wonderful addition to our BCDP family and will be looking for opportunities to visit local health departments and get involved in field work during statewide outbreaks over the next two years of her training with us.

You can contact Dr. Andie Newman at 608-261-8354 or NewmaAP@dhfs.state.wi.us

3. TUBERCULOSIS INVESTIGATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

On August 9, the TB Program was notified of a confirmed case of tuberculosis in a Sheboygan County resident. The patient's sputum smears were positive for acid fast bacilli and tuberculosis was confirmed by nucleic acid amplification testing (Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Direct™ or MTD™). The patient's chest x-ray and CT scans showed cavitation, indicating a prolonged period of infectiousness. The patient is employed in a large factory setting and had good work attendance just prior to his diagnosis.

Contact investigations conducted in settings where large numbers of unrelated people gather together (such as worksites) is likely to be a challenge. The Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center has developed "Contact Investigation in a Worksite-Toolbox." This Toolbox provides a framework for conducting a successful contact investigation in a worksite. It will help you identify and handle the issues that need to be addressed, and enable you to make decisions about whom to test and when to continue or stop an investigation. The toolbox is designed to be used on-line or from a CD-ROM and can be found at URL <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/catalogue/epub/index.cfm> under the heading "CI toolbox."

For more information about contact investigations in large group settings, contact the TB Program at 608-266-9692.

4. ENHANCED HEPATITIS C SURVEILLANCE PROJECT: THANKS AND A REMINDER

Thanks to all the public health nurses who contacted and interviewed patients for the enhanced hepatitis C surveillance project. We have received data on more than 200 patients so far. Since we anticipated that 250-300 patients would be reported during the time frame, we are looking forward to receiving more data sheets. Please return the completed data sheets on patients reported to your LHD during June and July 2004 **by October 8, 2004**. If you have not been able to contact the patient, just complete section 1 and 2 of the data sheet and return it. Our goal is to analyze the data and write-up the results of this project by the end of 2004, so

that it can be shared with local public health and healthcare professionals, and used as a guide for future planning and prevention efforts. Thanks again for the public health nurses' dedication and perseverance. We believe this project will contribute significantly to our understanding of the distribution of hepatitis C in Wisconsin with regard to risk factors, access to health care and receipt of hepatitis services.

For more information, contact Marjorie Hurie, RN, MS at 608-266-5819.

5. STAFF CHANGE IN HBV AND HCV PROGRAMS

As some of you may already know, Angela Russell, Hepatitis B/C Surveillance Epidemiologist, has resigned her position to become Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton's Policy Director. We wish her well. Questions regarding hepatitis C surveillance should be directed to Marjorie Hurie, Hepatitis C Coordinator, at 608-266-5819 and questions regarding hepatitis B surveillance should be directed to Jerry Gabor at 608-266-8621. Angela's telephone number has been reassigned to John Pfister, Assistant Scientist from the State Laboratory of Hygiene, who will not be answering questions about hepatitis surveillance.

Telephone Reporting of Unusual Disease Occurrences

Occurrences of diseases that are uncommon or atypical in Wisconsin, and outbreaks or clusters of disease which are identified, should be reported by phone as soon as possible, to (608) 258-0099. Reports may be made to this number on a 24/7 basis, but please do not use it for normal and routine disease reporting

To be added to or removed from the distribution list contact:

Cindy Paulson: paulscl@dhfs.state.wi.us (608) 267-9003

To comment on topics in this issue:

Michael Pfrang: pfranmm@dhfs.state.wi.us (608) 266-7550